

Sonoma County's California Coastal Trail:

Shaping the Solution -- Using a High-Collaborative Model
to Eliminate Long-Standing Gaps and Barriers
-- *the West County Partners Work Group*



Presenters

- Fran Gibson -- President of Coastwalk
- Richard Nichols -- Coastwalk Sonoma County Trails Committee
- Deborah Hirst -- SCC Project Manager
West County Partners Work Group (Sonoma County)
- Matt Gerhart -- SCC Project Manager
West County Partners Work Group (Sonoma County)
- Judy Rosales -- Trail Steward with
Coastwalk CCT Project
- Lee Otter -- Transportation and Coastal Access Liaison, CCC Central Coast District (Santa Cruz)



- 1983 very first Coastwalk down Sonoma County coast to highlight people's right to access their coast
- today CCT in Sonoma County is only 32% complete
- gaps and barriers = 68%!



MISSION: to ensure the right of all people to reach and responsibly enjoy the coast of California

VISION: a well-stewarded California coast -- highly prized as an irreplaceable commons -- open to all

1200 Miles -- 15 Counties

- “CCT: a continuous public right-of-way along the California coastline; a trail designed to foster appreciation and stewardship of the scenic and natural resources of the coast through hiking and other complementary modes of non-motorized transportation.”
- “Foster cooperation between state, local and federal public agencies in planning, design, signing and implementation of the CCT”

[SB 908 Report to the State Legislature 1/03]

CCT History

- first used by Native Americans as transportation and trading routes (wildlife corridors initially)
- 1910 and 1911 J. Smeaton Chase explored coast of California on horseback and wrote *California Coast Trails* where he describes the pleasure of traveling “within sight of the sea and within sound of its wise, admonitory voice”



Citizen & Legislative Support for our CCT

- Proposition 20 in 1972: "Coastal Protection Act" voter initiative: "a hiking, bicycle and equestrian trails system shall be established along or near the coast"
- Coastal Act of 1976 required coastal jurisdictions to identify a local alignment for the CCT in their Local Coastal Programs



2001 SB 908 California Legislature directs the Coastal Conservancy to determine what is necessary to complete the state's CCT

2003 SB 908 Report to State Legislature: "Completing the California Coastal Trail" prepared by SCC, CCC, State and Coastwalk ["Working Group"]



Coastwalk Sonoma County Trails Committee

- Identify the completed sections of the CCT
- Identify the issues regarding the the completion of the CCT and make recommendations
- Track the agencies or organizations involved in solving the issues
- Show by example what other counties can do to complete the CCT
- Online CCT maps can be found at:
<http://www.californiacoastaltrail.info/cms/pages/main/index.html>

Sonoma County & West County/Coastal Acquisition Working Group



- 14% increase in Sonoma protected lands 2002-2007
- 140,000+ acres County-wide
- February 2002
- Acquisitions -13,000+ acres protected in West County Study Area



Building on Existing Resources



Meeting - in the field, project updates & events



Identifying Goals & Lead Agencies

- South of the Russian River Parcel Study
- Willow Creek & Coleman Valley
- Multiple projects
- North of Russian River Parcel Study



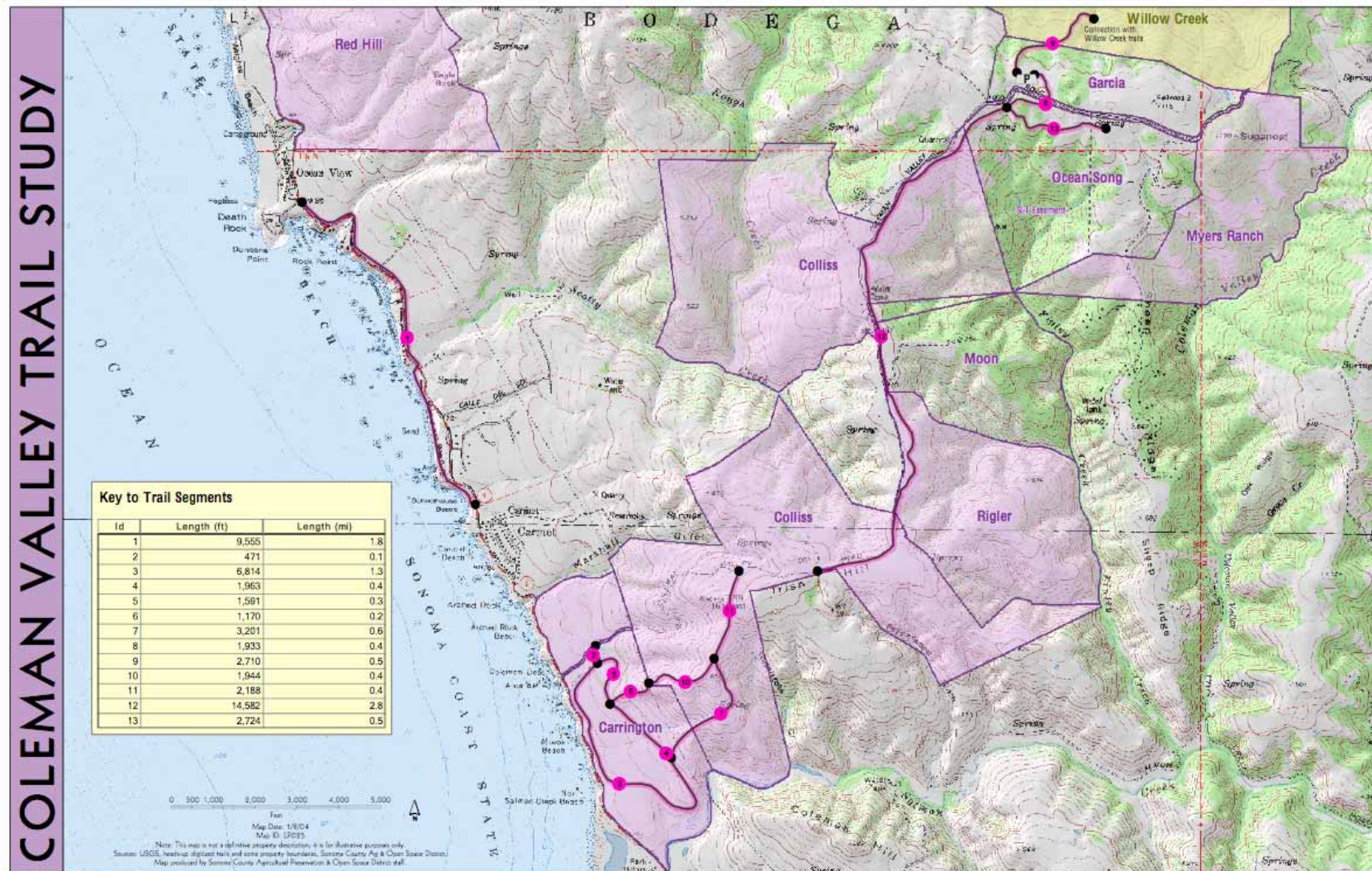
Strategic Acquisitions

Connectors and throughways:

- Willow Creek
- Red Hill
- Carrington
- Poff



Collaborating for Acquisition & Easements

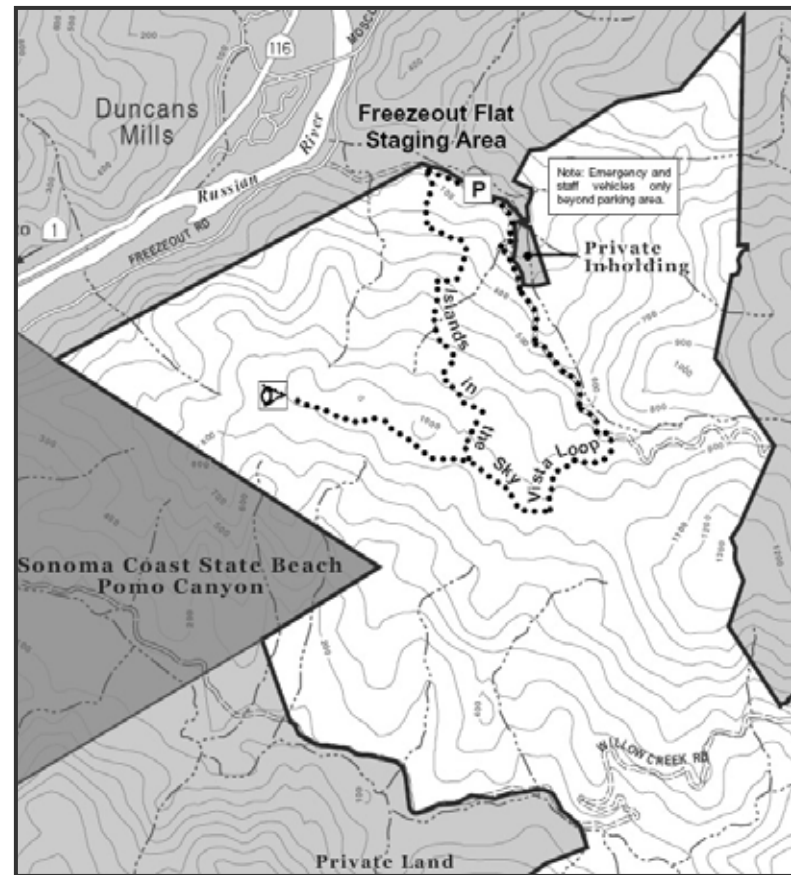


Willow Creek Partnership



Willow Creek Partnership

- 3,373 acres
- State Park ownership and management since May 2005
- Permitted access with Landpaths
- Initial trail system development
- ~2,000 permittees



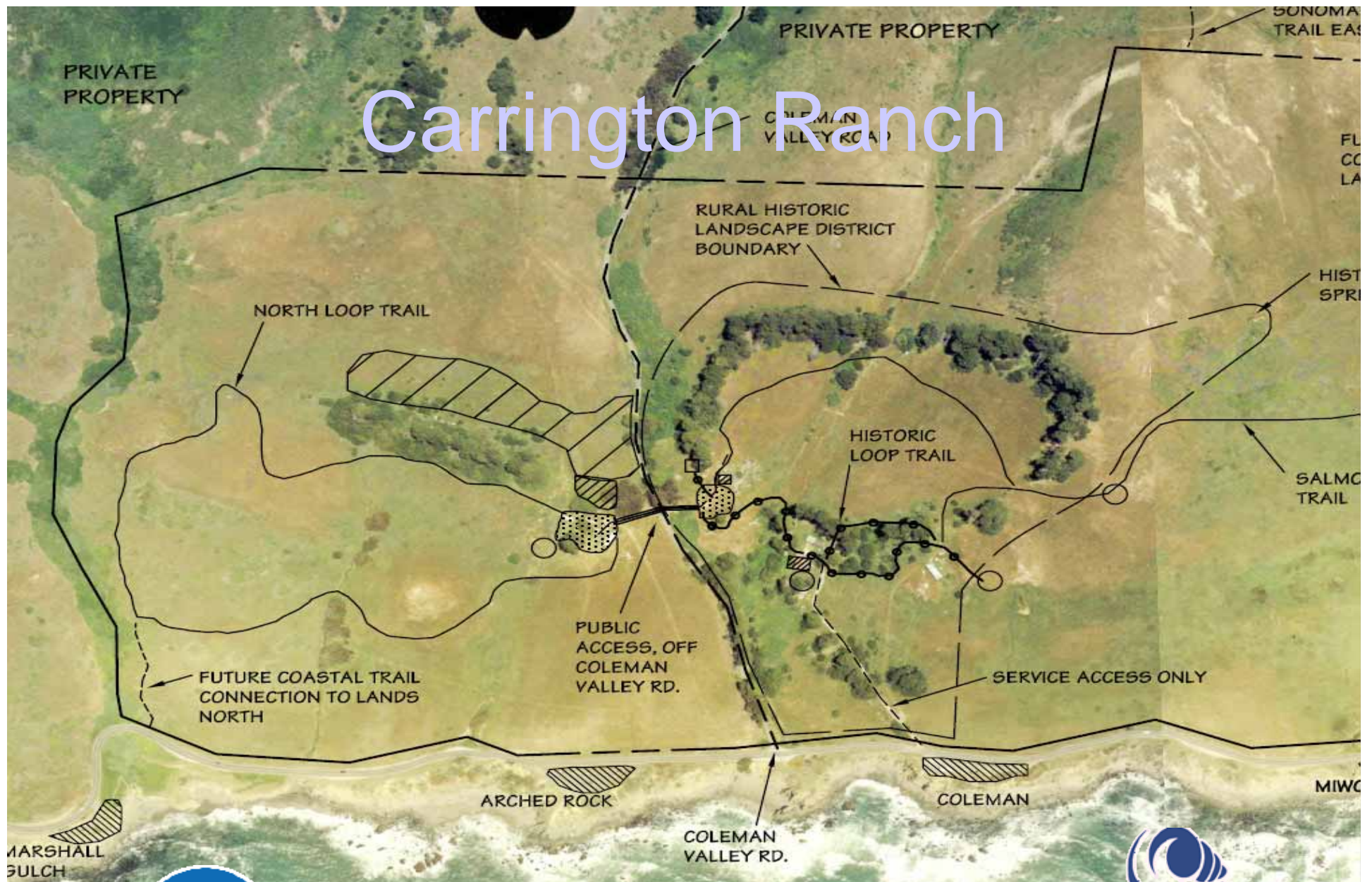
Carrington Ranch



- 344 acre acquisition in May 2003
- SCAPOSD ownership, being transferred to State Parks.
- Landpaths access management, trail development
- IPU planning, will be incorporated into CCT



Carrington Ranch

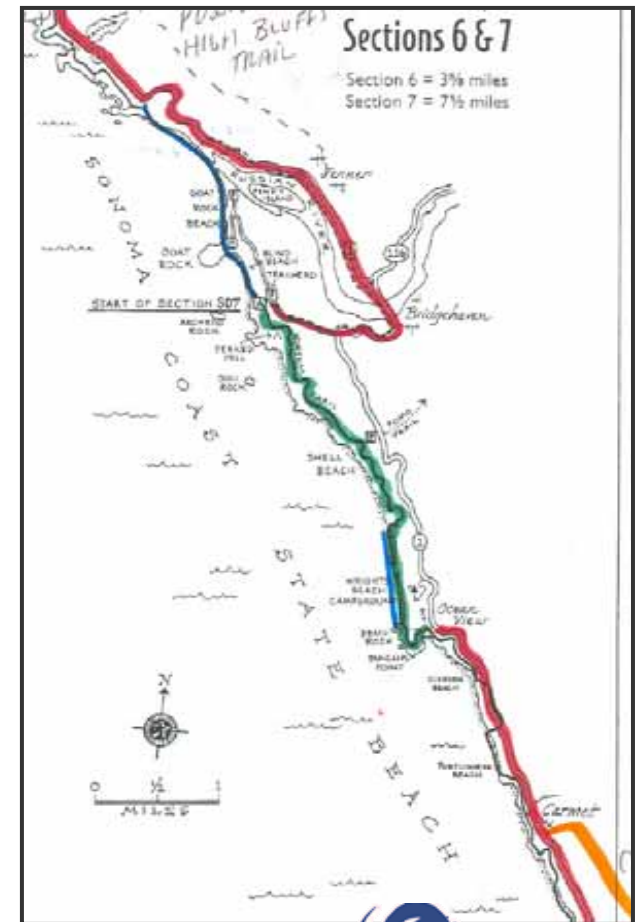


Coastwalk



Assessing the CCT

- Met with Coastwalk's Sonoma County Coastal Trail Group to determine consistent list of CCT segments
- Devised strategy for discussing status with the larger west county group
- Allowed for multiple “braided” segments
- Focused on accomplishments as well as challenges



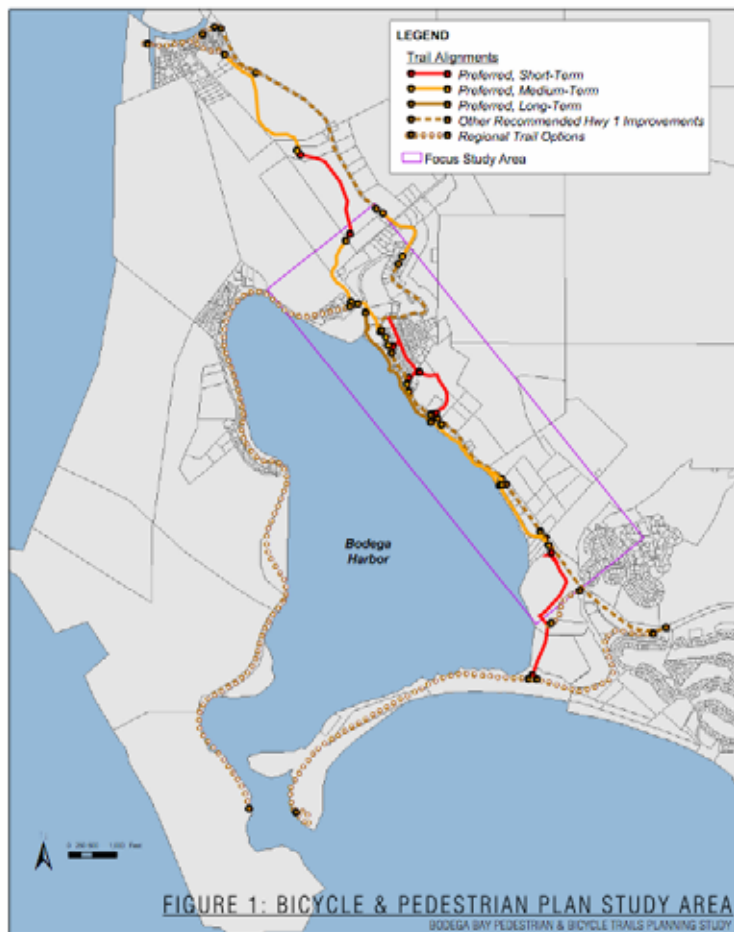
Assessing the CCT

| WCCAWG Priority Project Matrix Summary & California Coastal Trail Update - January, 2008 | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|
| CCT Section and Segment | Description | Ownership / Management | Lead Partner* | Other Partners | Status |
| Black Point to Salt Point SP Highway 1 | Trail along Highway 1 Corridor | Caltrans | | Coastwalk | Current CCT route in line of sight |
| Section 3 | | | | | |
| Salt Point SP | Trail along bluffs through established state park lands | CA DPR | CA DPR | SCC, Coastwalk | Many areas remain only potential; portions of DPR g. SCC currently planning the entire development/permitting for construction. Dealing with some portions are in existing paths, need to be re-routed. Trying to make it a whole and leg trail. |
| Section 4 | | | | | |
| Ocean Cove | OTD that connects Ocean Cove to shore | Private | SCRIP | | Getting an OTD that connects to shore. Still have a road segment to be developed (OTD). |
| McMaster Acquisition | 100 foot strip of land separates established trails at Salt Point from those at Stillwater Cove. | Private | SCRIP | CA DPR, Coastwalk, SFL? | Property owners seek to develop the planning commission and design. Trying to include the property into development proposal. Has been approved, trail up close to the bluff. |
| Stillwater Cove Regional Park | Public trails in the park to cove and existing trail up hill and crossing Stockhoff Creek. | SCRIP | SCRIP | CA DPR, Coastwalk | SCRIP manages 35 CA DPR acre north of Stillwater Cove |
| Stillwater Cove through Timber Cove | Populated segment of the coastline with trail placement most likely in the public Highway 1 right of way. | Various Private, Caltrans | SCRIP | Caltrans, SCC, Coastwalk | Disjoint set of properties with an disconnected public access OTD developed trail. |
| Timber Cove to Vindemere Point (Fort Ross SHP) | Populated segment of the coastline with trail placement most likely in the public Highway 1 right of way. | Various Private, Caltrans | SCRIP | SCC, Caltrans, CA DPR, Coastwalk | Disjoint set of properties with an disconnected public access OTD developed trail. Coastwalk trying alignment designed and bringing it Caltrans. |
| Vindemere Point to Collier Gulch | Trail existing along bluff, alignment needed down into and crossing a steep gulch. | Fort Ross SHP, DPR | CA DPR | Coastwalk | ??? |
| Fort Ross State Park (Collier Gulch to Fort Ross Cove) | Bluff top to also through public lands. | Fort Ross SHP, DPR | CA DPR | SCC, Coastwalk | Actually isn't a trail here, bluff top all during. Volunteer is also existing process of planning formal CCT |
| Section 5 | | | | | |
| Fort Ross Cove to Reel campground | Bluff top trail through public parklands. | Fort Ross SHP, DPR | CA DPR | SCC, Coastwalk | CCT complete. |
| Reel Campground to Russian Gulch - Hwy 1 | Trail along Highway 1 Corridor | Fort Ross to Russian Gulch via Hwy 1 | Caltrans | Coastwalk | Hiking currently available only on and narrow Highway 1 corridor. Unimproved, currently not a section of CCT |
| Reel Campground to Russian Gulch - Beach Route (Pope Rock) | Beach route along base of steep and inaccessible cliffs; requires tide timing and some climbing at Pope Rock. | CA DPR | | Coastwalk | |
| Fort Ross to Russian Gulch - Ridge Route | Ridge trail route, currently only via foot road to Myers grade road. | County Private, Private ranchlands | | Coastwalk | No developed bike lane or trail in shoulder but less traffic than Hwy 1 |

- Developed “Matrix” of CCT segments
- Presented to Workgroup, solicited information:
 - Ownership, Lead Partner, Status, Opportunities, Constraints
 - Current needs, mapping
- Serves as a guide as further work proceeds



California Coastal Trail - Bodega Bay Study Area Conceptual Plan 2005



- 7.8 miles of trail & bikeways
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- CalTrans
- CA Department of State Parks
- State Coastal Conservancy
- CoastWalk, Community Technical Advisory Committee & LandPeople

Planning & Implementing Projects

Doran Beach & Bird Walk Access - Cheney Gulch Bridge 2007



Fostering Diverse Projects & Collaborations



- Salmon Creek Green School
- Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods - Ocean Safety Signs
- Salmonid habitat and watershed enhancement
- Ranch and agricultural Best Management Practices
- Estuary Study and enhancement projects
- Water Conservation Demonstration Program
- Coastal Prairie Stewardship

Strategic Planning/Next Steps

- Coleman Valley Trails Report
- Timber Cove Feasibility Study
- Additional Bodega Bay Trails Implementation
- Sea Ranch Feasibility/Design Work
- Assessing potential for seeking federal funding with the partnership



Creating Possibilities - Stewardship & Public Access

- Poff Ranch 1,235 acres
- Sonoma Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma Land Trust
- State Coastal Conservancy, CA State Parks, CalTrans, Fish & Game
- CoastWalk, LandPaths, Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods...



Signing the California Coastal Trail

A statewide effort built on partnerships and cooperation



The purpose of the CCT Signage Program is to:



- Establish a distinct identity for the CCT
- Designate its route
- Inform the public of the Coastal Trail's existence.



Who decides where to place the signs?



- Sign placement is determined by the jurisdiction managing the particular trail segment, subject to approval by the Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission.
- Coastwalk volunteers may be called upon to offer recommendations.



Building Community

Marking the trail is a community endeavor



California Coastal Trail

1,200 Miles 15 Counties



Del Norte
Humboldt
Mendocino
Sonoma
Marin
San Francisco
San Mateo
Santa Cruz
Monterey
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Ventura
Los Angeles
Orange
San Diego





Forming Partnerships

- Adventure 16
- California Coastal Commission
- California State Parks
- City of Crescent City
- City of Hermosa Beach
- City of Manhattan Beach
- City of Monterey
- City of Morro Bay
- City of Pacifica
- City of Pismo Beach
- City of San Clemente
- City of Santa Cruz
- City of Santa Monica
- Coastwalk
- Girl Scouts of San Francisco
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Los Angeles County Dept. of Beaches and Harbors
- Mendocino Land Trust
- National Parks
- Outdoor Outreach
- Palos Verde Peninsula Land Conservancy
- Patagonia
- Port of San Diego
- Redwood Coast Land Conservancy
- Redwood Community Action Agency
- Redwood National Park Hostel
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
- Santa Monica Pier Corporation
- State Coastal Conservancy
- University of California Santa Cruz Students



Moderator and County Coastal Trail Group

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West County Partners Work Group Facilitators

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Collaborative Efforts for Signing the Coastal Trail

- Judy Rosales -- Trail Steward, CCT Project, Coastwalk, 825 Gravenstein Highway North, Suite 8, Sebastapol, CA 95472

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Statewide Implications using High-Collaborative Models to Eliminate CCT Gaps and Barriers

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